in its advisory capacity, has been issuing guidelines to the State Governments, from time to time. These guidelines take into account the views of Minorities Commission also, and are periodically reviewed and revised.

Increase in the water supply to the residents of Delhi

1323. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been worked out for increasing the supply of water to the residents of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking has reported that it has planned taken several long term measures and short term measures (scheduled for completion within the current year) to increase the supply of drinking water in Delhi. Some of the measures are:—

SHORT TERM MEASURES

(i) Construction of 180 MLD water treatment plant at Wazirabad. First phase already completed.

(ii) Construction of 54 MLD Iron Removal Water Treatment Plant at Okhla.

(iii) Construction of 5 Ranney Wells in Alipur expected to yield about 67.50 MLD.

LONG TERM MEASURES

(i) Construction of econd 450 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Haiderpur (3 years).

(ii) Construction of 180 MLD (40 MGD) water treatment plant at Nangloi (2-3 years).

(iii) Construction of 450 MLD water treatment plant at Gokulpuri in trans-Yamuna (5-6 years).

Review of working of Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System

1324. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a study conducted by the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry to the working of the Fair Price Shops and Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details of its findings and recommendations made therein; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) According to available information, the Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) conducted a study on Agricultural Price Policy in India, the report of which *inter-alia* contains reference to the Public Distribution System (PDS). The main findings in the report regarding PDS in the context of Agricultural Price Policy from the consumers' point of view are that Public Distribution System has not been very effective, it is restricted primarily to urban centres, large section of the poor people are outside its purview and even those who are covered do not necessarily get the benefit of issue prices. Quotas are not lifted because of the poor quality of foodgrains and irregular supply by the Food Corporation of India. PDS has thus failed to serve its objectives but the burden on the exchequer is increasing.

(c) Although an indepth examination of the study report has not been made, its conclusions appear to be based on inadequate appreciation of the role of PDS and are, therefore, misleading. While there may be inadequacies in an operation of the magnitude of PDS covering the entire country through as many as over 3.5 lakhs fair price shops, it cannot but be